

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7228

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0302

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, YE

SUBJECT: CABINET CHANGES, OTHER APPOINTMENTS IN YAR

1. MIN LABOR AND YOUTH AFFAIRS ABDALLAH HILLALI HAS LEFT YAR FOR CONVALESCENCE IN CAIRO AND LONDON AFTER REPORTED NERVOUS BREAKDOWN. HIS PHYSICIAN BROTHER MOHAMMAD WHO ACCOMPANIED ABDALLAH, SAID CONDITION RESULTED FROM OVERWORK, AND ABDALLAH COULD BE EXPECTED TO RETURN IN ABOUT A MONTH.

2. IN MEANTIME, AHMED ABDO SAID HAS BEEN PUT IN AS PINCH HITTER IN MINLABOR AND YOUTH AFFAIRS.

3. HILLALI'S JOB AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF CONFEDERATION OF YEMEN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATIONS (CYDA) HAS, FOR QUITE DIFFERENT REASONS, BEEN TAKEN OVER BY ABDAL HAFEDH BAHRAIN, WHO WON SECOND MOST NUMEROUS BLOC OF VOTES IN CYDA CONFERENCE AND ELECTIONS LAST MONTH IN TAIZ. HAMDI, WHO URGED CONFEREES NOT RPT NOT TO VOTE FOR HIM, WON OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF VOTES, IN WHAT AMOUNTED TO WRITE-IN AND IN PROCESS PROBABLY TOOK AWAY MOST OF SUPPORT FOR HILLALI WHO WAS DECLARED AND OFFICIAL CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION TO POST.

4. HAHRAIN THUS ACQUIRES JOB OF MINISTERIAL RANK THOUGH APPARENTLY HE WILL NOT ROUTINELY ATTEND CABINET MEETINGS.

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BAHRAN IS FROM IBB, A SECONDARY SCHOOL GRADUATE WHO WORKED

HIS WAY UP THROUGH LATE SIXTIES TO THIRD LEVEL POSITIONS
IN MINISTRY OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, WHICH NOT RPT
NOT AN IMPORTANT MINISTRY. BAHRAIN ELECTED AS IBB
REP TO MAJLIS OF SHURA IN 1971. HE HAS ALSO BEEN ACTIVE
IN CYDA AFFAIRS FROM IBB REGION.

5. ON APPOINTMENT OF AL-ARASHI AS MININFO, MAY BE WORTH
ADDING TO SANA 210 THAT HE IS BROTHER OF ABDUL RAHMAN
AL-ARASHI, WHO HAS OCCUPIED SENSITIVE MINFINANCE IN PAST
AND IS NOW IN PRESIDENTIAL PALACE WITH TITLE OF SPECIAL
ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT ON FINANCIAL MATTERS. BOTH AL-ARASHIS,
THEREFORE, LIKE
PRESENT MINFIN MUHAMMAD JUNAYD, WOULD
HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION WHICH MAN LIKE HAMDY WOULD
FEEL IS MOST SENSITIVE IN YARG: SUBSIDIES TO INDIVIDUALS,
TRIBES, COMPANIES, ETC. IN THIS LIGHT, ARASHI APPOINTMENT
TO MININFO SEEMS TO BE EFFORT TO REPLACE ONE LOYAL
FRIEND (DAHMAH) WITH ANOTHER.

COMMENT: BAHRAIN JOB DOES NOT RPT NOT APPEAR TO BE
RESULT PRESIDENTIAL CRONYISM BUT ARASHI APPOINTMENT DOES.
BOTH CHANGES, IN ANY CASE, ARE MINOR AND WITH GOVERNMENT
NEWSPAPERS ASSERTING THERE WILL BE NO RPT NO WHOLESALE
CABINET CHANGES. SANA RUMORS ABOUT CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT
ARE DYING DOWN.
RANSOM

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